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SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST:

Menacing by Stalking 2004 – 2013 data is now available on the Ohio Data Dashboard on the OCJS website. The Dashboard is an interactive map that combines various statistics grouped by county to better aid in data visualization and engage users.

<http://ocjs.ohio.gov/data-dashboard/atlas.html>



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OCJS Research Brief

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Economic Crime in Columbus Following the Opening of a Casino

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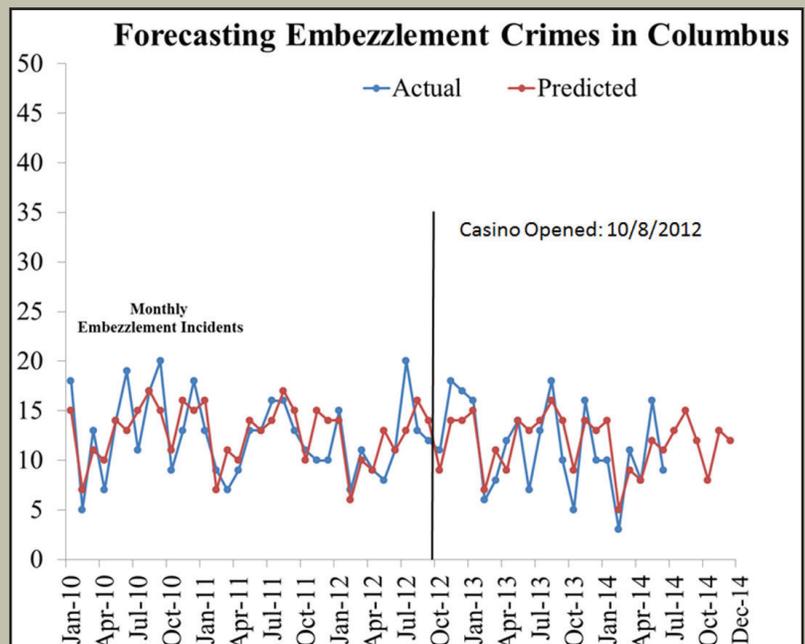
The economic crimes unit in the Columbus Police Department contacted OCJS earlier this year for assistance examining the impact of the newly opened Hollywood Casino on economic crime. Officers were aware of research which suggested that the presence of a casino led to an increase in economic crime, and they were concerned that the same thing might be occurring in Columbus.

To examine the relationship between the casino and economic crime, OCJS staff compared crime rates before and after the opening of the casino across multiple timeframes. Eight economic crimes were analyzed initially, including fraud, misuse of credit card, receiving stolen property, forgery/counterfeiting, theft, passing bad checks, telecommunications fraud, and identity theft. Crime rates for 100 days after the casino opened were compared to crime rates 100 days before the casino opened to evaluate the immediate impact of the casino. Additionally, crime rates for 100 days after the casino opened were compared to crime rates for the exact same days the year before to account for seasonal influences. Results from the analysis suggested that the opening of the casino did not lead to an increase in crime, and some crimes actually decreased following the opening of the casino.

A follow-up analysis was conducted to specifically investigate embezzlement crimes. In addition to the analyses conducted above, crime rates for 365 days before and after the opening of the casino were compared, and a forecast-

ing model (see Figure 1) was developed to predict embezzlements. Overall, data suggested that the casino didn't have any impact on embezzlement crime. Additionally, the forecasting model was able to accurately predict embezzlements in Columbus, though it didn't suggest that there would be an increase in embezzlements during upcoming months.

Though current research doesn't suggest that the casino had an impact on economic crime, OCJS will continue to examine the effects of the casino on Columbus crime rates. Overall, these research analyses represented a successful partnership between OCJS and the Columbus Police Department; it demonstrated another way that OCJS can assist law enforcement to help make the state of Ohio safer.



Stalking in Ohio – 2013 and Preliminary 2014 Data

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Similar to other states' laws, the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) statute 2903.211, Menacing by Stalking, characterizes stalking as engaging in a pattern of conduct that knowingly causes a person to believe that he or she will be physically harmed or will endure mental distress. Stalking in and of itself is considered a crime. The victim and the offender do not have to have a relationship or even know each other in order for stalking to occur. It is important to note however that stalking can be masked and charged as other crimes such as criminal trespass, burglary, or domestic violence, especially if the pattern of behavior has not been established for law enforcement. This report details the characteristics of stalking specific to ORC 2903.211.

One tool that can be used to examine stalking in Ohio is the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS). OIBRS is a voluntary crime reporting program in which Ohio law enforcement agencies can submit crime statistics directly to the state and federal government in an automated format. At the end of 2013, 560 agencies covering approximately 75 percent of the Ohio population were reporting OIBRS data. The use of OIBRS data allows for detailed information to be obtained on the nature of the offense, the victim, the suspect/arrestee, weapon use, and property involved.

In 2013, the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System agencies reported 1,342 incidents of stalking. The majority of stalking incidents were reported as occurring at a person's residence; however incidents were reported in numerous public areas as well.

Age. The average age of stalking victims was 33.2 years and approximately 49 percent of victims were between the ages of 18 and 34 years.

Gender. Eighty-three percent of victims were female.

Race. About 73 percent of victims were White, 27 percent were Black and less than one percent fell within the 'Other' category. White females made up 73 percent of all female stalking victims and White males made up 71 percent of all male stalking victims.



Relationship. Of the single-victim/single-suspect cases for which relationship data was known and reported (approximately 91 percent), the data show that stalking victims nearly always knew their stalker – only six percent of victims reported the stalker as a stranger.



Preliminary 2014 data

During the first six months of 2014, there were a total of 566 stalking incidents reported to the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System.

	2013	2014
January	97	104
February	77	76
March	106	82
April	108	91
May	125	116
June	112	97
Total	625	566

Age. Similar to that of 2013, the average age of stalking victims was 33.8 years and approximately 52 percent of victims were between the ages of 18 and 34 years.

Gender. Seventy-eight percent of victims were female.

Race. Seventy-three percent of victims were White, 26 percent were Black and approximately one percent identified as 'Other'.

Relationship. Similar to 2013 data, stalking victims nearly always knew their stalker; only five percent of victims reported the stalker as a stranger.

For the full report, http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs_Stalking2013.pdf

OCJS Sustainability Report

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There has been a recent increase in research designed to measure and improve an organization's ability to maintain key program activities over time (termed "sustainability"). This research may be used to not only evaluate individual programs, but also guide decision making by funding organizations. Given the important implications of sustainability for OCJS, members from the Policy and Research section conducted a study to evaluate both the sustainability of OCJS and the utility of a sustainability measurement tool that has yet to be applied to programs in the criminal justice setting.

Nine people from OCJS completed the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool (PSAT)¹, which is a 40 question survey that measures eight different sustainability factors (Table 1). These individuals were selected to take the survey because they either worked within the administration of OCJS, served as a director of one of OCJS' sections, or had been employed at OCJS for over a decade. Following the administration of the PSAT, data were collected, analyzed, and summarized to understand the overall sustainability of OCJS.

Table 1: PSAT Sustainability Factors

Sustainability Factor	Description
Communication	Strategic communication with stakeholders and the public
Strategic Planning	Processes that guide directions, goals, and strategies
Program Evaluation	Assessments of OCJS to inform planning and document results
Political Support	Internal and external political environments that support OCJS
Partnerships	Connections between OCJS and stakeholders
Organizational Capacity	Internal support and resources within DPS
Program Adaptation	Actions that adapt OCJS to ensure its ongoing effectiveness
Funding Stability	An established, consistent financial base for OCJS

Homicides in Ohio 2000-2012

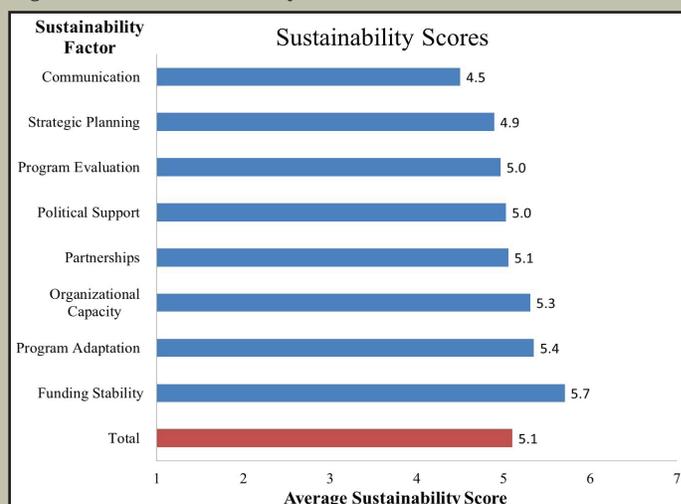
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Since 1930, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has annually collected data on crime in the United States through its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program collects only those data that come to the attention of law enforcement through

The results from the PSAT suggested that OCJS has good sustainability. OCJS had a total sustainability score of 5.1 out of a possible 7, and scores on each sustainability factor ranged from 4.5 to 5.7. OCJS scored highest on measures of funding stability and program adaptation, which are two of the most important factors for maintaining program sustainability². OCJS scored the lowest on the communication and strategic planning factors. While neither of these scores fell below the mid-point of the scale, the lower scores highlighted areas for improvement. Since the PSAT demonstrated its usefulness in a criminal justice context, OCJS will begin administering the PSAT to its funded programs to help evaluate and strengthen program sustainability.

Figure 1: OCJS Sustainability Scores



¹Luke DA, Calhoun A, Robichaux CB, Elliot MB, Moreland-Russell S (2014). The Program Sustainability Assessment Tool: A New Instrument for Public Health Programs. Preventing Chronic Disease, 11. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd11.130184>.

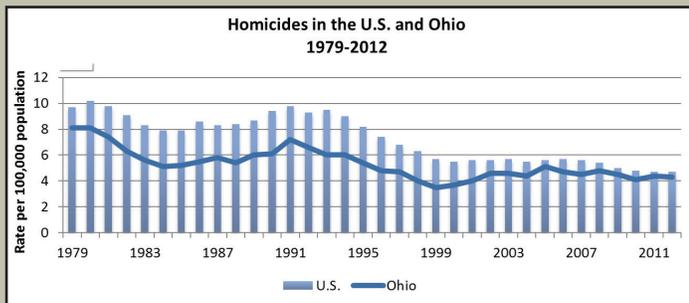
²Aharoni E, Rabinovich L, Mallet J, Morral AR (2014). An Assessment of Program Sustainability in Three Bureau of Justice Assistance Criminal Justice Domains. Retrieved October 23, 2014 from the RAND Corporation website: http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR550.html

victim reports or observation. Reporting is voluntary for law enforcement agencies active in the UCR Program.

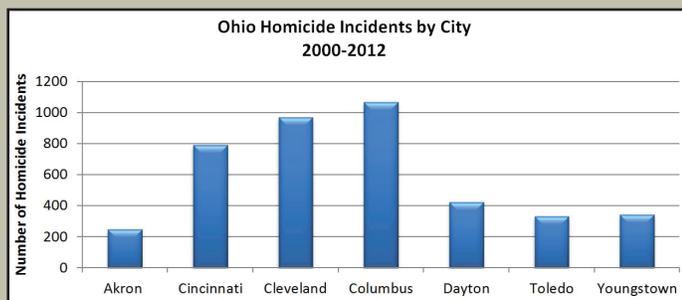
Data are collected on the eight Index offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. In addition to collecting summary data on the eight Index crimes, the FBI collects detailed data on homicides.

— Continued on next page.

Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) provide incident-based information on criminal homicides, including information describing the victim(s), the offender(s), the relationship between victim and offender, when the incident occurred, the weapon used, and the circumstances leading to the homicide incident. Law enforcement agencies in Ohio voluntarily report SHR data directly to the Federal Bureau of Investigation as part of the UCR Program. The following report is based on Ohio homicides reported by law enforcement to the FBI from 2000 to 2012.



Number of homicides. There were a total of 5,931 homicide incidents reported in the SHR in Ohio, resulting in 6,346 victims. Of the 5,931 occurrences, 95 percent (N = 5,626) resulted in the murder of a single victim and five percent (N = 305) resulted in the murder of multiple victims.

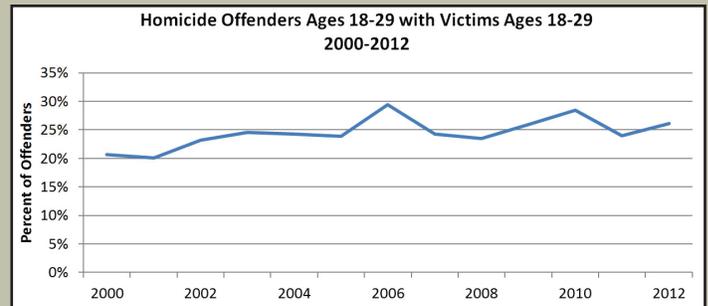


From 2000 to 2012, Ohio's three largest police departments – Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus – reported 48 percent (N = 2,830) of Ohio's homicide incidents.

Age. Certain age groups appeared to be more frequent targets of homicide than others. Thirty-eight percent (N = 2,381) were between the ages of 18 and 29 years old. Across each year, the 18-29 age group had the highest number of homicide victims. Overall, the average age of homicide victims was 33 years. The average age of victims remained fairly consistent over the last 13 years, with the average age being between 32 and 35.

Most interesting is that sixty-seven percent of homicide victims between the ages of 18 and 29 were killed by an offender between

the same age ranges. Twenty-five percent of offenders were known non-family members of the victim within this same age range. Of the known non-family members, 80 percent of offenders were identified as an acquaintance to the victim.



Race. There were a total of 3,752 (60%) black victims and 2,454 (39%) white victims. There were 22 Asian or Pacific Islander and five American Indian or Alaskan Native homicide victims identified. Black males made up 66 percent of male homicide victims and 49 percent of all homicide victims. White males made up 34 percent of male homicide victims and 25 percent of all homicide victims. In contrast, black females made up 42 percent of female homicide victims and 10 percent of all homicide victims, whereas white females made up 57 percent of female homicide victims and 13 percent of all homicide victims. Since 2000, black males have consistently remained the largest group of all victims of homicide.

Gender. Seventy-six percent (N = 4,813) were male and 24 percent (N = 1,490) were female. Over the last 13 years, on average, there have been 3 times as many male victims of homicide as female victims of homicide.

Single victim-single offender incidents. Ninety-five percent of homicide incidents involved a single victim. Of these, 55 percent involved a single identified offender. Sixteen percent were committed by multiple offenders. Thirty percent were committed by an unknown offender. For 86 percent of homicides, the victim knew the offender and often the perpetrator was a known non-family member or an intimate/former intimate partner.

Weapons used in homicides. Firearms were the leading weapon identified in homicide incidents, making up 63 percent (N = 4,622) of all identified weapons. Eight percent of homicides involved the use of a “personal weapon”, which includes beatings using hands, feet and fists.

For full report, <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs-Homicides-in-Ohio2000-2012.pdf>